

Opportunities for Strengthening and Supporting the Delta Science Enterprise

April 8, 2019



Delta Science Funding Initiative

- Launched to identify how to adequately fund science in the Delta to support decision-making and to build on current efforts that promote coordinated science
- Developed action oriented recommendations to improve support of science in the Delta for decision-making
- Resulted in collaborative document representing support from diverse membership

Participants

American Rivers: Steve Rotherth

Coalition for a Sustainable Delta: Jason Peltier

Delta Stewardship Council/Delta Science Program: Randy Fiorini, Susan Tatayon, John Callaway, Amanda Bohl, Ryan Stanbra, Yumiko Henneberry (white paper lead author)

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Carl Wilcox

California Farm Water Coalition: Mike Wade

Environmental Defense Fund: Robyn Grimm and Maurice Hall

Interagency Ecological Program: Steve Culberson and Stephanie Fong

Friant Water Authority: Jeffrey Payne

GEI Consultants/NGOs: Leo Winternitz

The Nature Conservancy: Jay Ziegler

Northern California Water Association: Todd Manley

San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Agency: Rebecca Akroyd

Santa Clara Valley Water Agency: Frances Brewster

State Water Contractors: Jennifer Pierre

State Water Resources Control Board: Michael George

US Bureau of Reclamation: Dave Mooney, Mario Manzo, Brooke White, and Mike Hendrick

USGS: Mike Chotkowski

Westlands Water District: Sheila Greene and Jose Gutierrez



Issues, Findings, and Recommendations

Issue 1: Need for shared, rigorous mechanisms to critically assess science and monitoring efforts

Findings

1. Challenges estimating science-based expenditures

Recommendations

- 1.1 Establish common accounting and reporting protocols
- 1.2 Support the web-based tracking system identified in the Delta Science Plan
- 1.3 Coordinate a critical review of science funding in the Delta

Issues, Findings, and Recommendations

Issue 2: Limited interchange among policy makers, scientists, and the public to inform science funding priorities and management questions

Findings

- 2.1 Limited communication to inform resource allocations
- 2.2 Unclear alignment of management needs and science linkages to support structured decision making
- 2.3 Limited guidance for compliance monitoring programs

Recommendations

- 2.1 Establish effective interchange between decision-makers, stakeholders, and scientists
- 2.2 Promote decision-support tools
- 2.3 Develop protocols to evaluate monitoring programs and the value of information generated

Issues, Findings, and Recommendations

Issue 3: Need for consistent funding across the Delta science enterprise

Findings

- 3.1 Inconsistent and fragmented research efforts
- 3.2 Limited staff assigned to turn data into information
- 3.3 Information not sufficiently accessible or digestible by decision-makers and stakeholders

Recommendations

- 3.1 Develop topic-specific Delta science implementation plans
- 3.2 Secure additional sources of reliable funding to achieve Delta science needs
- 3.3 Support open science by implementing current road maps for collaborative and open data access, analysis, and synthesis
- 3.4 Support more user-friendly and timely information sharing